

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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INDY SNOW FORCE PREPARES FOR WINTER WEATHER

Mayor Ballard and DPW Director announce improvements to city's snow plan

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard and Department of Public Works (DPW) Director David Sherman today announced enhancements to the city's snow removal plan that provides increased service capacity for the 2009/2010 winter snow season.

“We’ve made significant improvements in the way we deliver service to residents, and we continue to build on those successes as we head into this year’s snow season with a new approach to addressing winter weather challenges,” said Mayor Ballard. “New Indy Snow Force trucks will be working night and day to keep Indianapolis moving safely when snow and ice are in the forecast.”

Adding muscle to this year’s snow program, Indy Snow Force boasts several major improvements including:

- A 40% upgrade of the city’s snow fleet featuring thirty-seven 2009 International Model snow trucks.
- All 37 of the new snow trucks are outfitted with diesel particulate filters (DPFs) that can reduce pollution by up to 90%.
- An additional 2 – 3 tons of salt capacity per new snow truck allowing fewer reloads resulting in increased efficiency.
- An 80% upgrade to the contract fleet adding an additional 300 pieces of equipment to be utilized in residential snow removal during snow events of 6” or more.
- A more coordinated effort with school systems’ transportation directors and Public Safety to more effectively address school bus routes.
- Reallocation of staffing resources to better accommodate snow removal service in the 1-mile square Downtown area.
- Development of the upcoming Indy Snow Force website to allow residents fast, up-to-date snow plan information.
- Implementation of the Indy Snow Force Coldline: (317) 327-8000 for cold weather snow removal information and a fast effective resource that residents can use to report ice or snow emergencies.

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The city's mission is to provide safe streets through efficient and timely snow and ice control. Indy Snow Force will accomplish this through more and better equipment and other resources, along with more efficient management of staff time. The addition of 37 new snow trucks replacing the oldest vehicles in the fleet, along with the upgrade of the snow removal contract staff, will allow DPW to provide city residents better, faster, more efficient service.

"It is very important to us that we provide the best service possible to our citizens," said DPW Director David Sherman. "Their safety during harsh weather is the reason we keep snowplows running during long hours, and it's the reason we continue to work to improve the way we clear city streets."

When navigating difficult weather conditions, consideration for others and good sense often prove the difference in keeping roads, residents and commuters safe. The more we pitch in and work together, the better for everyone. City officials also encouraged residents to do a few common sense things to help in successfully getting through the winter season. Tips include:

- Familiarize yourself with the Indy Snow Force Snowplow Priority System.
- Residents and businesses should do their part in keeping sidewalks, drives and parking lots clear of ice and snow.
- Work with neighborhood associations, community and youth groups to keep sidewalks, school crosswalks and parking spaces and fire hydrants clear.
- Check on aging and disabled neighbors when you can to ensure their safety. Be considerate of young children and at risk citizens when clearing away snow.
- Businesses and building managers can help by shoveling adjacent sidewalks and bus stops.

For more information about Indy Snow Force, or to learn more about the Snowplow Priority System visit www.IndySnowForce.com.

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Photo Captions: The Department of Public Works showcases their 37 new snow trucks.



The new snow trucks will allow aging models, such as below, to be retired.



Mayor Ballard addressed the city to announce the enhancements Indy Snow Force brings to the 2009-2010 snow program.

